IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

2008/2009 North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan - October 2008 -

The funding allocation amounts shown below are for the two-year Expenditure Plan period unless otherwise identified. It should be noted that the actives summarized have not all been conducted within 2008/2009. Some of the strategies listed where initiated under the 2006/2007 Expenditure Plan.

PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Strategy 1 - Bulky Clean-ups

\$10,000

The Disposal Voucher program officially began on May 18, 2007, with the release of the 1st quarter community newsletter. Bulky Clean-ups are used in conjunction with the Disposal Vouchers (Strategy 3). The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) will serve as the community's primary point of contact for this program and will handle requests on an appointment basis following prescribed procedures. The CSC will provide Committee Staff from the County and City (Staff) with documentation on monthly basis.

Residents will be able to choose between requesting Disposal Vouchers or a Bulky Clean-up in conjunction with Disposal Vouchers. It will be mandatory for residents to provide a photo ID and recent utility or phone bill to prove they reside in the Mitigation Area and must have an active residential account with Richmond Sanitary Service (RSS) to qualify. Bulky Clean-ups will be limited to one per household per year and will be disbursed on a first come first served basis.

There has been limited interest in this program, only 3 community members have requested a Bulky Item Pick-up since the program was launched (only 1 under the 2008/2009 Plan). Staff recognizes that additional publicity about this program may result in greater participation and plan to enlist assistance from the CSC and Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSC) to better inform local residents about this program.

Strategy 2 - Neighborhood Clean-ups

\$15,000

On Wednesday, May 23, 2007, the first community-wide Neighborhood Clean-up took place. Approximately 50 tons of household trash and 33.5 tons of metal were collected. Tile art created by the Verde Elementary students was placed on trash receptacles and butterfly murals were strategically placed on graffiti-prone walls at various locations throughout the area.

The City, County and Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) are working with RSS, Sims Metal and others in the community to hold the second mitigation fee funded Neighborhood Clean-up, which will be held on Saturday, October

25, 2008. The plan is to have 5 drop-off locations throughout the North Richmond area and community youth and senior volunteers are expected to help staff each location and distribute handouts that include information about mitigation funded Voucher & Bulky-Item Pick-up programs. The CSC/BOC will coordinate the volunteer activities. This year's Clean-up is expected to have a larger turn out and cost more than last year.

Strategy 3 - Voucher System

\$15,000

The Disposal Voucher program officially began on May 18, 2007, with the release of the 1st quarter community newsletter. The Community Services Coordinator (Strategy 4) serves as the community's primary point of contact for this program. The CSC distributes vouchers on an appointment basis and provides Staff with documentation as needed for verification at the time payments need to be processed..

The procedures and guidelines for this program are very similar to the ones for the Bulky Clean-up program (Strategy 1). Households are limited to twelve Disposal Vouchers (\$5 each) per year. Disposal Vouchers will be disbursed on a first come first served basis and will expire six months following issuance.

To date, 124 vouchers have been redeemed at Republic's Golden Bear Transfer Station on Parr Boulevard (of which 11 have been redeemed since January 2008). Committee staff is hopeful that the new Community Services Coordinator and Bilingual Services Coordinator will help educate the public on this program.

Strategy 4 - Community Services Coordinator

\$144,262

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) is responsible for illegal dumping/blight referrals and tracking, public outreach, and illegal dumping prevention and acts as a liaison between the community, the City and County. The CSC is employed through CHDC of North Richmond. Saleem Bey was hired as the new CSC in May 2008, to replace Lola Ejuwumni who resigned in February 2008. The CSC and the new Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (see update below) have been hard at work learning about the Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan and assisting with related mitigation funded programs. Work conducted on this programs include working on a newsletter, neighborhood clean-up flyer and other public outreach materials, disbursing disposal vouchers, processing requests for bulky clean-ups, overseeing and working with YouthBuild and West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) students involved in mitigation funded stipend programs. Mr. Bey has been working closely with the Illegal Dumping Officer and Code Enforcement Officer, participating in community events and keeping open lines of communication with the community about Expenditure Plan strategies and other local issues related to illegal dumping and blight.

The CSC & BOSC attended numerous community meetings and met individually with numerous community leaders. The main purpose was to introduce themselves and their mission to help Green North Richmond. This was met with overwhelming support from community leaders who pledged to assist in any way they can. The CSC & BOSC have met with grant writers to look at supplementing the mitigation funding to further improve projects underway and planned.

Strategy 5 - Bilingual Outreach Services/Coordinator

\$56.000

The Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSC) assists the CSC with illegal dumping referrals/tracking and public outreach by serving as a link between the Spanish speaking members of the community of North Richmond and the City and County. CHDC hired Carla Orozco for the Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSC) position in May 2008. Ms. Orozco is very excited about the position and the possibilities of making a change in the North Richmond area. BOSC developed Spanish versions of the Neighborhood Clean-up flyer copied on the back-side of the English version and distributed communitywide to help ensure effective outreach to Latino community members. BOSC also prepared a Spanish version of a handout to be made available for participants of the Clean-up that includes information about mitigation funded Voucher & Bulky-Item Pick-up programs.

Strategy 6 - Public Outreach Campaign

\$71,000

Community meetings were held at the Shields-Reid Community Center in North Richmond in August 2006 and September 2007, to gain input from and share information with residents related to development and implementation of the Expenditure Plans.

The CSC and BOSC assist with the development of public outreach materials to help educate the North Richmond community about various mitigation strategies. One such example is the newsletter which provides the North Richmond community with updates related to the implementation of Expenditure Plan strategies and other important information related to illegal dumping/blight in the community. The first newsletter was distributed in May 2007 and now that new CSC and BOSC have been hired, the next edition is expected to be distributed by December 2008. The newsletters are created by the CSC, edited by staff and translated into Spanish by the BOSC. The approach to be used for distributing the Spanish version of the newsletter is still being explored.

A two-page flyer was created in 2007 and updated, as well as translated into Spanish in 2008, to publicize local disposal and recycling resources. This flyer includes details about free disposal resources available to residents through Mitigation Fee funded programs and Richmond Sanitary Service. The CSC, BOSC, Code Enforcement Officer & Illegal Dumping Officer assist in the dissemination of this resource.

To compliment the print outreach materials created, Staff designed and launched a new website (www.stopdumping.org) to provide residents with an online resource for Mitigation Fee supported programs & services.

The CSC has begun development of a marketing campaign called "North Richmond Green" intended to build recognition for mitigation funded beautification projects as well as generate community support and build pride and rally community support around all beautification efforts.

The following two educational brochures were drafted to inform residents about local waste & recycling collection services and local ordinance requirements, which are currently under review by Staff:

- "Basic Information for Mandatory North Richmond Garbage Collection Provided by Richmond Sanitary Service" provides details about requirements that all occupied households maintain adequate garbage service and basics about standard collection services provided to North Richmond residences.
- "On-Call Clean-Up Service" provides details about the two annual free on-call pick-ups that will be provided by RSS to their residential customers in North Richmond at no extra charge.

The Keep North Richmond Beautiful (KNRB) Steering committee meetings resumed in August 2008. After much discussion with community residents it was determined that greater community participation would be achieved through evening meetings. Staff is proposing to hold steering committee meetings during the day and conduct quarterly evening meetings with community residents.

The CSC & BOSC have made presentations at community meetings, including North Richmond Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) and The Growing Wiser Communication Class at the Senior Center, to discuss strategies to prevent illegal dumping, in addition to informing members about current beautification efforts and developments. The CSC also met with the president of Shields Reid Neighborhood Council and attended one meeting to discuss environmental concerns in the community.

The CSC & BOSC have identified community organizations within North Richmond to collaborate with in the development and execution of community projects to combat illegal dumping, trash and blight. These organizations include: Project Pride, The Young Adult Empowerment Center, Verde Elementary School, Head Start, and HEAL. They have also visited stores within the community, and received permission from their owners to post flyers to increase awareness, and youth participation in beautification efforts through North Richmond YouthBuild.

At a community meeting held in 2006 to obtain input about public outreach, residents indicated that the most effective means of informing community members is by word of mouth. The CSC proposed a design for t-shirts using a North Richmond Green logo to gain interest in local beautification efforts. Although t-shirts are more expensive than brochures and flyers they are also more permanent (average life span up to 5 to 7 years) and much more likely to become topics of conversation which would help ensure word of mouth information dissemination. The CSC proposes to distribute t-shirts and printed educational materials along with verbal messaging about greening the North Richmond community. T-shirt recipients would be told about ongoing and planned blight and beautification efforts and they in turn would be asked to pass on information to friends, family and others in the community.

ABATEMENT & ENFORCEMENT

Strategy 7 - City/County Pick-up from Right-of-Way

\$120,000

The City Public Works Illegal Dumping Abatement Crew began pick-up of illegally dumped materials in the public right-of-way in the unincorporated portion of the North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area as of July 1, 2007. The Abatement Crew receives work requests via internet to pick-up materials that are not suitable for collection by Republic Sanitary Service's Hot Spot Crew. The City's Abatement Crew works approximately 24 hours per week and for the past few months has experienced a large increase in the number of illegally dumped tires that they are required to collect. The designated North Richmond Sheriff is well aware of this issue and is working with other enforcement entities to collectively solve the problem.

The City Public Works Department provides monthly invoices and reports to the City for reimbursement of staff costs, equipment usage and mileage. The City Public Works Abatement Supervisor is working closely with the CSC and Staff to ensure the effective implementation of this strategy.

Strategy 8 - Vacant and Abandoned Lot and Properties Clean-up

\$40,000

This strategy was newly expanded to include the clean-up of abandoned lots and properties within the Mitigation Area. A meeting was convened in July 2008 with code enforcement staff, the illegal dumping officer, CHDC staff and City and County staff to discuss how to expend these funds, as well as those associated with Strategy 9 (fencing). CHDC staff introduced and will continue to pursue the idea of utilizing some of the vacant lots for community gardens. There was discussion around utilizing YouthBuild participants to clean-up lots and properties instead of contracting out to private firms. Staff from Supervisor Gioia's Office, CHDC staff and the code enforcement officer agreed to look into the logistics. Although no funds have been expended to date, City Code Enforcement staff now has access to these funds and plans on utilizing them in 2008-2009. City Code Enforcement staff is working to set up a system by which these funds can be utilized more effectively by their staff. The County already has a system and funds in place for vacant lot clean-ups but they also have access to a portion of the funds if needed.

Strategy 9 – Vacant and Abandoned Lot Fencing

\$90,000

Although no funds have been expended to date, City Code Enforcement now has access to these funds and plans on utilizing them in 2008-2009. City Code enforcement and Attorney's Office are considering creating a list of contractors that can be hired to perform this task. The County already has a system and funds in place for fencing but they also have access to the funds if needed.

Strategy 10 - Code Enforcement Staff

\$313,514

Effective January 1, 2008, Conrad Fromme, a full-time County Building Inspector, was assigned to the new dedicated Code Enforcement position to replace Vincent Cabellero. The monthly status report submitted by Mr. Fromme for September 2008 indicates that he opened 25 cases, closed 12 cases and had 77 total cases active. Mr. Fromme

works closely with Deputy Monroe, City Code Enforcement and Contra Costa County Environmental Health staff to create a more comprehensive code enforcement system to address the illegal dumping problem in the North Richmond community.

Strategy 11 - Graffiti Abatement

\$58.240

The City and County Public Works Departments entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2007, to allow the City Public Works Graffiti Abatement Crew to clean graffiti visible from the public right-of-way located within the unincorporated portion of the North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area. The City Public Works Graffiti Abatement supervisor is responsible for providing quarterly invoices and reports to the City for reimbursement of staff costs, equipment, materials and mileage. The Graffiti abatement staff works an average of 15 hours per week in the North Richmond Mitigation Area. Despite the increased workload, the needs of the community are met in a timely manner.

Strategy 12 - Illegal Dumping Investigator/Officer

\$274,808

Sheriff Deputy Felipe Monroe was assigned as the new dedicated Illegal Dumping Investigator/Officer on April 30, 2007. Deputy Monroe has made a significant impact in the area in the short amount of time he has been in the position.

Deputy Monroe has issued approximately 180 citations for everything from unsecured and uncovered loads to illegal dumping of trash and/or tires. For example, Deputy Monroe caught a man dumping a load of yard waste on Pittsburg Ave. (by Action Metal) and was able to immediately issue him a citation. Deputy Monroe has towed numerous vehicles from the streets that are laden with trash or are in disrepair and is tracking violators that are illegally hauling and dumping tires within the Mitigation area.

Examples of Deputy Monroe's work:

- Deputy Monroe was able to gather enough evidence and put a case together for two individuals from San Pablo who dumped 3-4 cubic yards of construction materials on Brookside Drive. Deputy Monroe found information inside the illegally dumped material that linked back to one individual. Deputy District Attorney Derek Butts charged both individuals with a misdemeanor resulting in one defendant receiving 10 days of jail time and the other a \$2,000 fine. Both individuals were required to do community service as part of their probation.
- Deputy Monroe has been to court 9 times for people who are attempting to contest fines received from the issuing of citations. The Court Commissioner that presides over these cases initially found defendants not guilty for the violations. However, after Deputy Monroe met with him to explain the purpose of the Mitigation work in North Richmond and the reasons for the violations, the Commissioner has recently began to find people guilty.
- In the last three months, Deputy Monroe and the District Attorney's Office put together a felony case against a construction hauling company that operates an illegal transfer station. A community member witnessed staff from the construction company illegally dumping 7.1 cubic yards of construction debris

on private property belonging to AT&T on Brookside Ave. The witness contacted Deputy Monroe who then proceeded to contact the hauling company and responsible individual. The individual admitted to the dumping and agreed to clean it up. However, AT&T was not satisfied and decided to hire an outside firm at a cost of \$11,000 to deal with the materials because they contained dry wall and asbestos. Deputy Monroe presented the case to Deputy District Attorney Butts. The District Attorney's Office will file the case and the construction hauling company will be liable for the cost of the cleanup.

- Illegal tire dumping is becoming rampant within the Mitigation area. Action
 metal currently started to accept scrap metal and people are taking the rims
 to Action Metal but dumping tires throughout City. There are also several
 chop shops throughout the City. The code enforcement team is attempting to
 come up with strategies to deal with the issue and is hopeful that the new
 surveillance cameras will help mitigate this issue.
- There is a desire to deal with the rise of abandoned shopping carts in the North Richmond area. There is a section in the CPC that states that it is a misdemeanor to be in possession of a shopping cart with out permission from the cart's owner (stores). However, Deputy Monroe has experienced a problem enforcing this law because 90% of stores do not want to press charges but they have to in order for the DA to file a case. Deputy Monroe will continue to look into this issue.
- Deputy Monroe and other code enforcement staff have found that there are 7 illegal transfer stations in the area and are trying to get a conviction on a case that will set a precedent on how to deal with other illegal transfer stations.

In addition to the above, Deputy Monroe is attending community meetings to get his face known, and to spread the message of "No Dumping" out to the good residents of North Richmond.

The Deputy has found issuing verbal warnings to be very effective. Frequently residents are instructed to pick up trash in front of their house and are warned that a citation will be issued if it is not picked up by a specific deadline (usually within 24 hours). In most cases, the Deputy has found that residents clean up the illegally dumped materials within the specified time period. This technique has proven to be very effective in establishing accountability among residents that illegally dump their trash on the streets. Deputy Monroe is working very closely with the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor, the CSC, the North Richmond Code Enforcement Officer, City & County Public Works, Richmond Sanitary Services and County Environmental Health.

Strategy 13 - Increase Nighttime Patrols & Investigation

\$40,000

Increased nighttime patrols are intended to complement the work of the new Investigator/Officer (Strategy 12). These funds can be used to pay City and County law enforcement to conduct nighttime patrols and surveillance in addition to patrols by a private security firm. The Illegal Dumping Officer expects he may incorporate more

nighttime surveillance and investigations into his work in the near future, particularly as the surveillance camera project moves forward.

Based on identified illegal dumping trends, Deputy Monroe uses an average of 10 hours of overtime per month to conduct surveillance. During one instance, Deputy Monroe was able to watch and catch 2 individuals that go door to door and ask for work collecting and disposing of construction debris or other garbage. The individuals were paid to haul construction debris from a house on 1st Street and proceeded to dump it at 2nd and Filbert, a known dumping ground. Deputy Monroe issued each individual a citation and required them to properly remove and dispose of the construction debris.

Strategy 14 - Surveillance Cameras

\$260,000

The City of Richmond has entered into a contract with ADT Security Systems for the installation of cameras throughout Richmond and the Port, with a focus on aiding in crime and illegal dumping prevention. The contract also includes the material and installation of eight (8) cameras in the Mitigation Area to help combat illegal dumping. Funding for this strategy would not only be used to purchase, install, repair, maintain and move cameras and associated mounting kit/accessories but also to set up the coverage network, purchase needed software and additional deterrent mechanisms.

Camera installation was completed in spring 2008. Now, ADT is working closely with the City Police Department and Deputy Monroe to explain the functionality of the camera system, set up the camera views and analytics (need definition), discuss options/issues related to providing Sheriff's Office staff and/or Dispatch Center with access to the City's CCTV system and to answer questions and solve any camera issues that come up. ADT is currently running final tests of all the CCTV system before the City of Richmond plans to accept the entire project in October 2008.

Staff will continue to explore the technical, operational and financial feasibility of using future allocations to expand the coverage network so that the entire Mitigation Area is covered which would provide maximum flexibility when moving cameras based on changes in illegal dumping hot spots.

Strategy 15 - Illegal Dumping Prosecutor

\$65,149

The new Illegal Dumping Prosecutor position was filled effective January 2, 2007. The District Attorney's office assigned one of their experienced attorneys, Derek Butts, to this new position. The allocated funds cover 15% of the full-time salary for 2 years. Mr. Butts works closely with the City Police Department and the North Richmond Illegal Dumping Officer to discuss various strategies and important information needed to prosecute illegal dumping cases. Mr. Butts has filed cases on individuals found guilty of violating codes related to illegal dumping which have resulted in fines, jail time, and community service (See Strategy 12 for more detailed information). As of August 18, 2008, Mark Eichman has replaced Mr. Butts as the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Strategy 16 – Beautification

A. Neighborhood Landscaping Projects

\$12,000

As part of its contract with the City, CHDC will be compensated for certain costs associated with neighborhood landscaping projects. However, CHDC cannot expend funds without first obtaining written approval from City/County staff. Once projects are identified, CHDC staff will contact the appropriate City or County staff to discuss, get approval for and finalize project components. Funding is to be expended exclusively for plants/materials needed for pre-approved landscaping projects (labor to be provided by YouthBuild Participants funded through Strategy 18). Neighborhood landscaping projects are to be selected based on community input. Funding is for plants or materials needed to conduct pre-approved landscaping projects. The CSC, in collaboration with the Keep North Richmond Beautiful Steering Committee, has identified several priority community beautification projects including the creation of community gardens on vacant lots. The new CSC and BOSC have begun working with several other community partners and expect to involve YouthBuild to help set up community gardens. YouthBuild, the CSC and the Young Adult Empowerment Center staff are also discussing possible landscaping projects to ensure collaboration and reduce duplicative efforts.

B. Servicing Additional Street Cans

\$2,462

Republic Sanitary Service (RSS) continues to provide weekly collection service for three (3) street cans, which were purchased by CHDC. Tile art created by Verde Elementary School children was placed on these street cans in May 2007. The street cans are located at the following sites:

- 3rd & Market Ave
- 6th & Market Ave
- Giaramita & Verde

There have been increasing problems with the street cans in these locations, including substantial vandalism/damage (e.g. parts removed, turned over, burned, etc.) and misuse (e.g. overstuffed with household garbage rather than litter). The CSC expects to conduct a survey of the community to identify more visible locations to move these cans and for future cans.

Strategy 17 - Community Involvement

A. Stipends and Mentorship Program

\$118,000

Mitigation Fees now fund stipends to West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Transition Program students, YouthBuild participants and the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) Advisory Council for illegal dumping abatement and beautification programs. It is also expected to fund the Mentoring Program at the YAEC to aid in efforts to combat illegal dumping and blight.

As part of its contract with the City, CHDC is compensated for stipends provided to WCCUSD Transition Program Students and YouthBuild Participants for conducting agreed upon activities related to trash and beautification. In 2007, three WCCUSD Transition Program students performed various tasks in the Mitigation Funding Area, such as trash removal/de-littering and assisting with the community garden and recycling at Verde Elementary School and Youth Build participants worked at two Mitigation Fee funded events. Five WCCUSD Transition Program students participated through the school district program and in May 2008 they completed their work with the Verde Community Garden. Their efforts at Verde Elementary were well received by Verde administration, teachers and students and CHDC has begun early negotiations with the school district to plan projects to be undertaken through the program expected to resume in Fall 2008.

YouthBuild participants conducted door-to-door distribution of the bilingual flyers for the October 25th Neighborhood Cleanup and will be responsible for monitoring all debris boxes and assisting residents in unloading materials into dumpsters at the Clean-up event. New cohorts of WCCUSD students and YouthBuild participants were recently selected and have begun to work in the North Richmond community.

The County entered into contract with the County Housing Authority effective October 15, 2008, to administer the YAEC Advisory Council Stipend Program. Staff and Supervisor Gioia's Office are working together to outline the proposed details of the YAEC Mentorship Program which is expected to incorporate efforts to address and combat illegal dumping and blight in the community.

B. Parks Rehabilitation Initiative

\$175,000

The City of Richmond Parks Division can use Mitigation Fees to fund various park and related projects at Third Street Ballfield, Shields-Reid Park and/or other areas within the Mitigation area. The CSC, in collaboration with the Keep North Richmond Beautiful Steering Committee, has identified several priority community beautification projects including Third Street Ballpark and Shields Reid. The CSC will meet with Richmond Parks and Recreation Department regarding community input related to the parks projects and ascertain the City's plans for the parks. They will also discuss how recreation programming can be created to align with the Park improvements. Once a project(s) is decided, Parks staff will meet with Mitigation staff to determine next steps and begin work. Committee staff will explore potential assistance that could be provided through YouthBuild and further coordinate with the Parks Department regarding implementation. To-date, no funding has been expended.

C. North Richmond Greening Project

\$150.000

The North Richmond Greening Project consists of working with community stakeholders to create a greening plan for the area and installing and maintaining the selected plan. To-date, no funds have been expended on any phase of this project.

D. New Street Can Project

\$15,000

The new street can project is currently on-hold while CHDC and City/County staff determine the effectiveness of the current street can project, as well as the long-term feasibility of the new project.

E. Senior Center Improvements

\$10.000

An initial list of desired improvements to the Neighborhood House Multicultural Family and Senior Center was sent to City/County staff in 2007. Staff had further discussions with the seniors and main point of contact for the Senior Center in March 2008. Although staff explained there was limited funding available and the monies could only be used for enhancements to the exterior of the building (new lighting, landscaping, fencing and/or painting), the seniors provided input about needed exterior and interior improvements.

At this point, it appears that fencing around the building would be the most logical use of funding allocated for this strategy given the amount available and the purpose it would serves in preventing dumping & improving safety. However, staff has not yet verified feasibility or worked out details including estimated cost, permitting, location or design.

Staff has communicated the Senior Center's input regarding needed building improvements to a couple of other entities that may be able to provide funding for this project and asked that they coordinate with the Senior Center directly to identify any other potential sources of funding that could be used to fund improvements.

F. Safe Routes Program & Community Mural Project

\$15,000

Both the Safe Routes Program and Community Mural Project are being implemented by Harold Beaulieu, founder of a nonprofit organization that coordinates community based art projects in the Bay Area and administered under contract between CHDC and the City. Mr. Beaulieu submitted budget/work plan for the Community Mural Project at the Young Adult Empowerment Center in second quarter of 2008 and began work during the third quarter of 2008. Mr. Beaulieu expects to submit budget/work plan for the Safe Routes to School Project soon and would likely begin work at Verde Elementary in late 2008.

G. West County Watershedz Program

\$15,000

The Urban Creeks Council submitted a proposal to fund the design and implementation of a rehabilitation project within the Wildcat Creek riparian zone and trail corridor near Verde Elementary School. The proposed project would have employed North Richmond youth and was part of a larger environmental project in the North Richmond area. In March 2008, Committee staff went on a tour of the riparian zone and trail corridor with Josh Bradt, the project leader from the Urban Creeks Council. Mr. Bradt planned to prepare a detailed scope of work and next steps for implementation for submittal to Committee staff; however, subsequent to the tour, Mr. Bradt left his position at the Urban Creeks Council. Staff has recently been in communication with the new point of

contact with the Urban Creeks Council, Doria Robinson, to discuss the proposal and anticipates receiving a proposed work plan in late 2008.

H. Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Enhancements

\$20,000

The Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District submitted a proposal requesting funding for at least a portion of three projects that would enhance fish passage and water quality and do habitat preservation at Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks. The funding allocated was significant less than the amount requested and therefore likely not adequate to fund a portion of more than one of the creek projects. No funds have yet been spent because the District staff is currently researching and evaluating possible partnerships and funding sources that could potentially be leveraged for most effective implementation of project(s) on specified creeks.

I. Capital Improvement Projects

\$103,707

Committee members recommended capital improvement projects to be considered should include fencing or alternate barriers, and street/sidewalk improvements related to railroad crossings. The City and County have flexibility to split the funds for separate projects or combine some or all of the funds for use on one joint project that benefits the entire community. No funds have been allocated to specific capital improvement projects because City and County staff still need to determine the most efficient and effective use of the allocated funds within the Mitigation area.